

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, SP

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR NASA
CANARY ISLANDS TRACKING STATION

REF A. STATE 173835; B. STATE 177892; C. MADRID 5262

1. MFA OFFICIAL, IN RESPONSE TO DRAFT NOTE IN PARA 3
REF A AND DURING CALL BY EMBOFF AND NASA REP, STATED THAT
GOS PROPOSES ONE MINOR MODIFICATION IN CANARY ISLANDS
TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT, WHICH MODIFICATION RELATES TO
AGREEMENT'S DURATION. INSTEAD OF HAVING PRESENT AGREEMENT
EXTENDED UNTIL JANUARY 29, 1979, MFA SUGGESTS THAT AGREEMENT
BE EXTENDED UNTIL JAN 29 1984. RATIONALE FOR MFA
DESIRED CHANGE IS TO MAKE TERMINATION OF CANARY
ISLANDS AGREEMENT SIMULTANEOUS WITH TERMINATION DATE OF
AGREEMENT COVERING MADRID SPACE STATION. THIS WOULD, IN
MFA'S VIEW, PROVIDE A "NEATER ARRANGEMENT" ADMINISTRATIVELY.

2. MFA OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, STATED THAT SHOULD PROPOSED
CHANGE IN DURATION OF AGREEMENT CAUSE PROBLEMS TO US
GOVERNMENT, GOS IS AMENABLE TO A SIMPLE EXTENSION OF
AGREEMENT UNTIL 1979 AS PROPOSED REF A. IN ADDITION
HE STATED THAT, EVEN IF AGREEMENT IS EXTENDED TO 1984, US
GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL BE AT LIBERTY TO TERMINATE IT
BEFOREHAND IF SO DESIRED.

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3. NASA REP INDICATES THAT PRESENT PLANS FOR NASA UTILIZATION OF CANARY, ISLANDS TRACKING STATION DO NOT EXTEND BEYOND LATE 1978. HOWEVER, EMBASSY AND NASA REP BELIEVE IT DOES NO HARM, AND MIGHT EVEN PROVE BENEFICIAL, SHOULD ANY NOW-UNFORESEEN REQUIREMENTS DEVELOP FOR POSSIBLE CONTINUED NASA PRESENCE IN THE CANARIES BEYOND 1979, TO EXTEND AGREEMENT UNTIL 1984.

4. DEPARTMENT'S AND NASA'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED RE MFA PROPOSAL TO EXTEND AGREEMENT UNTIL JAN 29, 1984. IN EVENT DEPARTMENT AND NASA ARE AMENABLE TO EXTENSION UNTIL 1984, WOULD ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC LANGUAGE REGARDING RIGHT TO TERMINATE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO 1984 DATE BE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE?
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